

VW ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION TRUST/ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUS REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Questions received prior to 06-21-19 Webinar

Q. Is this RFP for local school districts to respond request a few buses for their own use or are you asking suppliers to respond to the RFP to sell product (EV buses/EVSE) to the State?

A. The purpose of the Program is to replace old diesel school buses. Eligible applicants include New Hampshire municipalities, public and nonpublic schools, school districts and contractors operating school buses for the purpose of transporting K-12 students in New Hampshire. See Section 1.11 of the Request for Proposals (RFP).

Q. From a supplier standpoint, we would need to know of an interested New Hampshire school district wanted to apply and work with them, correct?

A. Eligible applicants are responsible for working with equipment suppliers to develop their proposals. As specified in Section 1.12 of the RFP, electric school buses funded through this Program must be purchased new from an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) or OEM-authorized dealer and shall be fully equipped by the manufacturer, or third party at the direction of the manufacturer, to operate on electricity at the time of purchase and registration.

Q. I'm following up on our phone conversation yesterday with my question about the VW program. Heronfield Academy is a small independent school along the NH Seacoast. We take our 90 middle school students in grades 6-8 on many field trips each year. For example, we partner with the Blue Ocean Society to clean up local beaches, we go to MIT and participate in a robotics program, and we go to the Edward M. Kennedy Institute and the JFK Library. In addition, we have an award winning jazz program and our musicians travel widely to compete - and win top honors - in several competitions each year. I've long wanted to own a couple of buses, yet I want our field trip program to be carbon neutral. Two of the VW electric buses would accommodate an entire grade of our students, so I was really hoping the VW program could include us. Unfortunately, we do not currently have any diesel buses that we could turn in. Should the VW program allow us to participate in the future, would you let me know?

A. The current solicitation is for the replacement of existing diesel buses. Any future solicitations will be posted the VW page of the Office of Strategic Initiatives website at <https://www.nh.gov/osi/energy/programs/vw-settlement.htm>. You may request to be added to the distribution list to receive information related to NH's VW Mitigation Trust by sending an email to Timothy.White@des.nh.gov.

Q. I am emailing from PACE career Academy. We are wondering if we are eligible to apply for the program. We have a small bus for transportation for our students. We are a public non-profit high school.

A. Based on this description PACE career Academy is an eligible applicant.

Q. Would this (*i.e. Electric School Bus Replacement Program*) apply to School Districts/Departments that outsource their student transportation services to a contractor?

A. Per Section 1.11 of the RFP, contractors operating school buses for the purpose of transportation K-12 students in New Hampshire are eligible applicants. Contractor applicants, and school districts applicants who use contracted student transportation services, should include documentation of the contractual agreement to provide/utilize such services to demonstrate compliance with the requirement in Section 3 of the RFP that the buses remain in operation in New Hampshire for no less than five (5) years.

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Q. Can applications include partners or are they just coming from school districts?

A. Eligible applicants may submit a proposal that includes a partner. In the application the contractual relationship between the eligible applicant and its' partner(s) should be clearly defined. The State of New Hampshire will enter into a grant agreement only with the eligible applicant, who will bear the responsibility of complying with the terms of the contract.

Q. How would a utility best support the application?

A. All eligible applicants are strongly encouraged to work with their electric utility in the preparation of any proposal that includes the installation of electric vehicle charging equipment. Utilities could support an application by providing applicants with cost estimates for any required infrastructure upgrades assisting in the development of a plan to avoid or reduce potential demand charges, and by sharing knowledge with applicants regarding details such as how to select an appropriate charger for the project.

Q. Could a utility provide the project match?

A. If an eligible applicant has a contractual agreement with a utility to provide specific project components in support of an eligible project then those costs could be included as match provided the utility costs are not paid for using ratepayer funds.

Q. If the utility could demonstrate that there are other benefits related to emissions reduction on the power supply side, would that be a factor in evaluating the application?

A. The project proposal will be evaluated based on the criteria in Section 5 of the RFP. If the project proposal includes the use of an on-site renewable energy resource installed as part of this project to provide power for charging infrastructure, then the calculation of the total project emissions reduction will reflect that renewable versus grid power was used. Applicants should provide data on the capacity of the renewable energy system, any associated energy storage capacity, and an estimate of the times of the day when charging would occur.

Q. For the RSA 200 verbiage you read, is that posted in the RFP or in another place on your website?

A. Here is the language as well as the link to the RSA:

RSA 200:48 Air Quality in Schools. – The school board of each school district shall develop and implement a policy governing air quality in schools. The policy shall address methods of minimizing or eliminating emissions from buses, cars, delivery vehicles, maintenance vehicles, and other motorized vehicles used for transportation on school property taking into account the state anti-idling and clean air zone policies established by the department of environmental services.

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/xv/200/200-48.htm>

Questions received following 06-21-19 Webinar

Q. Where on the NH DES site can I find the link to the presentation?

A. The presentation is posted on the VW funding page of the OSI website at:

<https://www.nh.gov/osi/energy/programs/vw-trust-funding.htm>

Q. Can in-kind matches be considered? What classes of in-kind match would be acceptable? For example, charger, bus telematics software for charging control, etc.?

A. Eligible match includes grantee expenditures toward the cost of the electric school bus and grantee expenditures for onsite charging infrastructure that is to be used for the charging of electric buses acquired under this proposal. Expenditures towards the cost of software for the management of the charging infrastructure would be eligible under this program. A determination of whether bus telematics software would be eligible would require additional information, however an initial read is that telematics are not an eligible project cost. From Section 1.13 of the RFP:

Eligible project costs include:

- The cost of the replacement electric bus including all accessories that are legally necessary for the operation of that vehicle as a school bus or, by approval in the contract agreement, that were on the bus being replaced and for which the case can be made that they are necessary equipment
- Costs related to the acquisition and installation of associated EVSE required for the project

Q. Is the State aware of any financing that might be available for the match for municipal electric school bus projects?

A. Yes. New Hampshire's Community Development Finance Authority (NHCDFA) has expressed interest in providing financing resources for applicant match funding - especially in electric fleet vehicle applications and potentially for some charging infrastructure. Their contact information is:

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